I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 27, 30 and 31 without prejudice. Kindly amend claims 12 and 25, and add new claim 32 as follows.

These claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 11 have been cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) An electronic component comprising at least one resonator element arranged in a first housing of a case, the case comprising:

(a) a main part provided with a base and at least one lateral wall of annular shape; and

(b) a glass cover fixed onto the main part to hermetically seal the first housing of the case, wherein at least one portion of the glass cover is transparent to a determined wavelength of a light beam to allow the resonator element to be optically adjusted, wherein the glass cover is friable or breakable,

wherein the glass cover is fixed onto an annular rim of the lateral wall of the main part, wherein the main part is made of a hard material so that one part of the rim entirely surrounds lateral surfaces of the glass cover and ensures protection of the glass cover of the electronic component against lateral shocks, and

wherein a space is provided between all the lateral surfaces of the glass cover and the one part of the rim surrounding the glass cover, wherein the space is substantially of smaller dimension than the thickness of the glass cover in order to facilitate mounting of the glass cover on the rim of the lateral wall of the main part,

wherein the lateral surfaces of the glass cover comprise edges and corners, and the space provided between all the lateral surfaces of the glass cover and the one part of the rim surrounding the glass cover narrows at the corners of the glass cover, and

_____wherein the space is disposed to avoid propagation on the glass cover of lateral shock against the rim.

13. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, wherein the hard material is a ceramic material.

14. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, wherein a height of the one part of the rim surrounding the lateral surfaces of the glass cover is larger than or equal to a thickness of the glass cover fixed onto the rim.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, wherein the rim of the main part of the case receiving the glass cover includes a first annular layer of gold plating, wherein a periphery of an inner face of the glass cover includes a second annular layer of gold plating, and wherein the glass cover is welded onto the rim using a metal alloy preform arranged between the first annular layer of gold plating and the second annular layer of gold plating, wherein the metal alloy is formed of tin and gold.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, wherein the first housing of the main part of the case that includes the resonator element is vacuum sealed, wherein the resonator element is a quartz resonator adjustable by a laser beam through the transparent portion of the glass cover, and said quartz resonator comprises

a tuning fork with two parallel arms connected to each other by a bridge and carrying electrodes to make the arms vibrate, and wherein the main part of the case further includes at least one stud secured to the base onto which the tuning fork is fixed, and said electrodes are electrically connected through the main part of the case to external connection terminals.

19. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, further comprising an oscillator circuit electrically connected to the resonator element.

20. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 19, wherein the oscillator circuit is arranged in a second housing of the main part, wherein the second housing is delimited by the lateral wall and the base, and the second housing is arranged on an opposite face of the base to the first housing of the resonator element, wherein said oscillator circuit is encapsulated in the second housing by a resin and is electrically connected to external connection terminals of the electronic component, and wherein the base of the main part of the case includes electrical connection paths for electrically connecting the oscillator circuit and the resonator element.

21. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, wherein a getter type material is arranged in the first housing of the resonator element to act as a vacuum pump when activated.

22. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 21, wherein the getter type material is a layer of evaporated titanium or chromium in the first housing of the resonator element, and wherein this layer of titanium or chromium is disposed

to be activated by means of a laser beam through the transparent portion of the glass cover so as to act as a vacuum pump and lower the oscillation frequency of the resonator element.

23. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 22, wherein the getter type material layer is disposed on a part of the inner face of the glass cover.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An electronic component comprising at least one resonator element arranged in a first housing of a case, the case comprising:

(a) a main part provided with a base and at least one lateral wall of annular shape; and

(b) a glass cover fixed onto the main part to hermetically seal the first housing of the case, wherein at least one portion of the glass cover is transparent to a determined wavelength of a light beam to allow the resonator element to be optically adjusted, wherein the glass cover is friable or breakable,

wherein the glass cover is fixed onto an annular rim of the lateral wall of the main part, wherein the main part is made of a hard material so that one part of the rim surrounds at least certain portions of lateral surfaces of the glass cover and ensures protection of the glass cover of the electronic component against lateral shocks, and

wherein a height of the one part of the rim surrounding all the lateral surfaces of the glass cover is larger than or equal to a thickness of the glass cover fixed onto the rim, and

wherein the one part of the rim entirely surrounds the lateral surfaces of the glass cover, and

wherein the lateral surfaces of the glass cover comprise edges and corners, and the space provided between all the lateral surfaces of the glass cover and the one part of the rim surrounding the glass cover narrows at the corners of the glass cover.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 12, further comprising an integrated circuit arranged in a second housing of the case, wherein the second housing is delimited by the lateral wall and the base of the main part, and wherein the at least one resonator element is vacuum enclosed in the first housing, and the second housing is filled with resin encapsulating the integrated circuit.

29. (Previously Presented) The electronic component according to claim 25, further comprising an integrated circuit arranged in a second housing of the case, wherein the second housing is delimited by the lateral wall and the base of the main part, and wherein the at least one resonator element is vacuum enclosed in the first housing, and the second housing is filled with resin encapsulating the integrated circuit.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (NEW) An electronic component comprising at least one resonator element arranged in a first housing of a case, the case comprising:

(a) a main part provided with a base and at least one lateral wall of annular shape; and

(b) a glass cover fixed onto the main part to hermetically seal the first housing of the case, wherein at least one portion of the glass cover is transparent to a determined wavelength of a light beam to allow the resonator element to be optically adjusted, wherein the glass cover is friable or breakable,

wherein the glass cover is fixed onto an annular rim of the lateral wall of the main part, wherein the main part is made of a hard material so that one part of the rim surrounds at least certain portions of lateral surfaces of the glass cover and ensures protection of the glass cover of the electronic component against lateral shocks, and

wherein a height of the one part of the rim surrounding all the lateral surfaces of the glass cover is larger than or equal to a thickness of the glass cover fixed onto the rim, and wherein the one part of the rim entirely surrounds the lateral surfaces of the glass cover, wherein a space is provided between the lateral surfaces of the glass cover and the one part of the rim surrounding the glass cover, wherein the space is substantially of smaller dimensions than the thickness of the glass cover in order to facilitate mounting of the glass cover on the rim of the lateral wall of the main part,

wherein the lateral surfaces of the glass cover comprise edges and corners, and the space provided between all the lateral surfaces of the glass cover and the one part of the rim surrounding the glass cover narrows at the corners of the glass cover, and

wherein the space is disposed to avoid propagation on the glass cover of lateral shock against the rim.